Lunch

Dear Jim, 1996/political and CBS-FBI 6/29/78

Once again CBS has partially duplicated one of my King requests. It has been pressing Shea for compliance and the FBI is reluctant to comply for more than one reason.

CBS is doing a special, a sort of retrospective look at the decade of the 60s. For this it has asked for three of the records cited by the Church committee in the King report, Book III. These are in footnotes 447A, 447B abd 448.

The FBI's official position is that it must process requests in order. Its estimate appears to be that it will take about a year to reach the CBS request.

However, it also pointed out that I have an inclusive request for the political King records that includes these three. I think that what it was really saying is that it would have to give me those records if it gave them to CBS. I think it was also saying that it wants very much not to give me anything it is not required to give me and that these records would be "hot" ones to me. But maybe especially that it does not love me.

This all appears to have followed Shea's suggestion that the major media was much in the mind of the Congress when it passed the Act, so could they process just these three and not get CBS mad at the Dept.

Shea asked me if I object to the FBI's processing these records for CBS. I said that I would not object if I get copies at the same time and if CBS promised to discuss them with me after we both read them. I made it clear that CBS does not have to listen to me and that I am not trying to incluence what CBS may want to think or say. My point was that so many of these records are subject to innocent misuse and out-of-context use I want no more than to be able to inform CBS if I see such possibilities. It is perfectly free to ignore anything I may say. If I say anything.

I also told him that I think I see what CBS is driving at or is interested in and that I have at least one other record that is relevant I'll be glad to give it.

I think he told me the CBS honcho on this is named Firedlander.

All of this serves to remind me that my request for political files is actually part of 1996 because the FBI agreed to that. It promised these records to me, through Hartingh, after the review under Judge Smith's order.

The CBS interest appears to be in the Cointelpro stuff following the King assassination, as against Coretta, etc.

Best,